

The National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System

The primary goal of the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System is to track indicators of effectiveness of the coastal management programs and reserves at the national level. The system consists of a suite of performance indicators to track how well the states are achieving Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) objectives and contextual indicators to track environmental and socioeconomic factors influencing program actions. Performance indicators are organized into 6 focus areas: Public Access, Government Coordination and Decision Making, Coastal Habitat, Coastal Water Quality, Coastal Hazards, and Coastal Dependent Uses and Community Development.

Coastal management programs work alongside many federal and state programs that manage coastal resources. States and local governments also carry out a variety of resource management and economic development programs that impact the coasts. Because coastal management programs are not the only programs affecting the coast, it is difficult to assign sole responsibility to these programs for the overall condition of the coasts. The purpose of the performance measurement system is not to compare the relative contribution of coastal management programs with those of other programs. Instead, the performance measurement system is designed to assess the contributions made towards the goals of the CZMA. Thus, the performance indicators align with responsibilities specific to coastal management programs, as articulated through the CZMA.

Water Quality Focus Area

CZMA Water Quality Objective – “The management of coastal development to improve, safeguard, and restore the quality of coastal waters, and to protect natural resources and existing uses of those waters.” (CZMA Section 303(2)(C))

The CZMA addresses water quality as part of routine program implementation as well as part of the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, implemented by states to restore and protect coastal waters. Glossaries were developed to identify the purpose of each indicator, underlying data that may apply, and criteria for indicator data that programs will need to develop. The glossaries, including the Water Quality glossary, are available online at www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/cpd/welcome.html. Regional workshops will be held to assist programs with collecting indicator data in cooperation with partner state agencies. Workshops for the Water Quality focus area will be conducted during 2006.

Timeline for the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System

The National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System will be implemented on a 3-phase schedule. Phase 1 will have two reporting cycles to enable OCRM to report results to Congress and OMB during the 2006 federal fiscal year.

Implementation Phases	Grant Year Reported	Deadlines for July 1 Award Start Date	Deadlines for Oct. 1 Award Start Date
Phase 1a: Public Access and Government Coordination	2004	January 31, 2006	April 30, 2006
Phase 1b: Public Access and Government Coordination	2005	July 31, 2006	October 31, 2006
Phase 2: Habitat and Water Quality	2006	July 31, 2007	October 31, 2007
Phase 3: Coastal Hazards and Community Development & Coastal Dependent Uses	2007	July 31, 2008	October 31, 2008

For more information, contact Laurie Rounds, NOAA Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Coastal Programs, Laurie.Rounds@noaa.gov, (615) 371-0151.